

Abstract: A method for detecting microorganisms or cells with an improved measurement accuracy of automatically focused measurement wherein microorganisms or cells contained in a sample are captured on the surface of the adhesive layer of a collection sheet comprising a substrate layer containing on the surface, the back or within the substrate a focusing marker, an adhesive layer having a predetermined thickness and deposited on the surface of this substrate layer, the microorganisms or cells are stained by a staining reagent before or after their capture, and after being automatically brought into focus by the focusing marker, at least either one of the light receiving optical system for image measurement or the collection sheet is moved relatively by a distance equivalent to the distance obtained by adding the value of distance from the surface of the substrate layer to the position of the focusing marker to the value of the predetermined thickness of the adhesive layer from the focusing position by this autofocusing as the reference point, the microorganisms or cells on the adhesive layer are automatically brought into focus, and a light is radiated on the surface of the focused adhesive layer to measure the image and detect the microorganisms or cells. Therefore, the present invention enables in particular to monitor easily and in real time microorganisms existing on the surface of solid bodies, and in addition provides a method of detecting microorganisms or cells with an improved accuracy of automatic focusing measuring.